

1. SUMMARY: DUE TO SHIA-SUNNI SECTARIAN CLASHES THE GOP JULY 25 IMPOSED A CURFEW IN PARACHINAR. HEADQUARTERS OF KURRAM AGENCY. SADDA-PAFACHNAR ROAD HAS BEEN BLOCKADED AND CLOSED TO TRAFFIC SINCE JULY 22. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS MENTION EIGHT TO TEN PERSONS KILLED AND TEN TO TWENTY INJURED IN THE CLASHES. WE HAVE ADVISED ALL AMERICANS AND AID LOCAL STAFF TO AVOID TRAVEL TO KURRAM THE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY

2. JULY 26 PRESS REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING SHIA-SUNNI SECTARIAN CLASHES IN ADJACENT AREAS, THE KURRAM AGENCY HEADQUARTERS PARACHINAR HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE ARMY AND A CURFEW IMPOSED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD FROM THE EVENING OF JULY 25. EARLIER THE SADDA-PARACHINAR SEGMENT OF THE MAIN SHIA-PARACHINAR ROAD WAS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC ON JULY 22 [ILLEG] SECTS HAD BLOCKADED THE ROAD AT SEVERAL POINTS. [ILLEG] ALSO REPORTS THAT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THE AGENCY HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE ROAD BLOCKADES TO LOOT AND [ILLEG] THE MOSTLY LONE TRAVELERS STRANDED IN BETWEEN THE ROAD BLOCKADE THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY TAKEN 150 TO 200 KALASHNI [ILLEG] INCLUDING 50 FROM AFGHANS TRAVELING ON A BUS NEAR PARACHINAR.

3. CLASHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SEVERAL VILLAGES INCLUDING BUSHERA, SHINGAR, NASTIKOT, KUNO ALIZAI, AND [ILLEG]. PRESS ACCOUNTS BASE ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTS MENTION EIGHT TO TEN DEATHS AND TEN TO TWENTY INJURED AS A RESULT OF FIGHTING WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS INCLUDING MORTARS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, MISSILES, AND HEAVY MACHINE GUNS.

4. [ILLEG] AGENCY SECTARIAN CLASHES TAKE ON TRIBAL OVERTONES AS THE TURI TRIBE, THE MAJORITY IN UPPER KURRAM IS BHIA. WHILE THE MANGALS, DOMINANT IN LOWER KURRAM, ARE SUNNI. SECTARIAN TENSION HAS BEEN INCREASING IN KURRAM AGENCY DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. FOUR WEEKS AGO THE MAGAL SUNIS DEPRIVED SHIA TRIBESMAN OF THEIR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN SHAHZAI.

5. THE AGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND A JIRGA OF LOCAL ELDERS ARE TRYING TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE. IN PARACHINAR BOTH THE SHIA IMAMBARA AND THE SUNNI MOSQUE, WHICH SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTS, HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES.

6. [PARAGRAPH EXCISED]

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

[SAME PAGE]

7. COMMENT: ALMOST EVERY YEAR THERE ARE SECTARIAN CLASHES DURING THE MONTH OF MOHARRAM IN KURRAM. THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE SERIOUS SHIA-SUNNI FIGHTING THIS MOHARRAM BEGINNING THE END OF AUGUST IS HIGH.

8. [PARAGRAPH EXCISED]

9. ON JULY 23 [ILLEG] ISSUED A SECURITY ALERT [ILLEG] URGING ALL AMERICANS TO AVOID TRAVEL TO KURRAM AGENCY THE NEXT WEEK. AT THE TIME OF THE ALERT THERE WERE NO AMERICAN AID EMPLOYEES IN KURRAM AND THE LOCAL [ILLEG] EMPLOYERS THERE HAVE SINCE DEPARTED SAFELY.

0021

EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS

CONFIDENTIAL

JOCS INFORMATION
SERVICE CENTER



002

PRIORITY

ZYUW HUSBPA1348 2080301

F 270100Z JUL 87

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4178

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 5117

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI 4185

AMCONSUL LAHORE 3356

CONFIDENTIAL PESHAWAR 1348

EO 12958: DECL. OADR

1755: PINF. SOCI. PGOW. PK. SF

SUBJECT: SECTARIAN CLASHES IN KURRAM

REF: (A) PESHAWAR 1341 (INSTAL)

1. (U) SUMMARY: DUE TO SHIA-SUNNI SECTARIAN CLASHES THE GOV JULY 21 IMPOSED A CURFEW IN PARACHINAR. HEADQUARTERS OF KURRAM AGENCY. SADDAPARACHINAR ROAD HAS BEEN BLOCKED AND CLOSED TO TRAFFIC SINCE JULY 22. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS MENTION EIGHT TO TEN PERSONS KILLED AND TEN TO TWENTY INJURED IN THE CLASHES. WE HAVE ADVISED ALL AMERICANS AND ALL LOCAL STAFF TO AVOID TRAVEL TO KURRAM THE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) JULY 18 PRESS REPORTED THAT, FOLLOWING SHIA-SUNNI SECTARIAN CLASHES IN ADJACENT AREAS, THE KURRAM AGENCY HEADQUARTERS PARACHINAR HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE ARMY AND A CURFEW IMPOSED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD FROM THE EVENING OF JULY 25. TO RELIEVE THE SADDAPARACHINAR SEGMENT OF THE MAIN TRAIL PARACHINAR ROAD WAS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC ON JULY 22. CIVIL SOCIETY HAD EVACUATED THE ROAD AT SEVERAL POINTS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THE AGENCY HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE ROAD BLOCKADES TO LOOT AND KIDNAP THE MOSTLY LOCAL TRAVELERS STAGNANT IN BETWEEN THE ROAD BLOCKS. THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY TAKEN 150 TO 200 KALASHNIKOV, INCLUDING 50 FROM AFGHANS TRAVELING ON A BUS NEAR PARACHINAR. A DETACHMENT OF THE KURRAM MILITIA, ESCORTING A TRIBAL LEADER (SUSPECTED OFFICIAL) HEADING FOR TERT MANGAL, WAS FORCED TO RETURN BY SHIA TRIBESMEN AT SHALAZAI, A VILLAGE FIVE MILES FROM PARACHINAR.

3. (U) CLASHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SEVERAL VILLAGES INCLUDING BUSHERA, SHINGAR, NASTIKOT, KUNJ ALIZAI, AND MARELL. PRESS ACCOUNTS BASED ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTS MENTION EIGHT TO TEN DEATHS AND TEN TO TWENTY INJURED AS A RESULT OF FIGHTING WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, INCLUDING MORTARS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, MISSILES, AND HEAVY MACHINE GUNS.

4. (U) IN KURRAM AGENCY SECTARIAN CLASHES TAKE ON TRIBAL

OVERTONES, AS THE TURLI TRIBE, THE MAJORITY IN UPPER KURRAM, IS SHIA, WHILE THE MANGALS, DOMINANT IN LOWER KURRAM, ARE SUNNI. SECTARIAN TENSION HAS BEEN INCREASING IN KURRAM AGENCY DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. FOUR WEEKS AGO THE MANGAL SUNNIS DEPRIVED SHIA TRIBESMEN OF THEIR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN SHALAZAI.

5. (U) THE AGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND A JIRGA OF LOCAL ELDERS ARE TRYING TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE. IN PARACHINAR BOTH THE SHIA IMBARRA AND THE SUNNI MOSQUE, WHICH SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTS, HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES.

7. (C) COMMENT: ALMOST EVERY YEAR THERE ARE SECTARIAN CLASHES DURING THE MONTH OF MUHARRAM IN KURRAM.

8. (U) ON JULY 23 POST ISSUED A SECURITY ALERT (REF ID: A67001) ADVISING ALL AMERICANS TO AVOID TRAVEL TO KURRAM AGENCY THE NEXT WEEK. AT THE TIME OF THE ALERT THERE WERE NO AMERICAN AID EMPLOYEES IN KURRAM AND THE LOCAL AID EMPLOYEES THERE HAVE SINCE DEPARTED SAFELY.

HARBOR BT

ACTION (U, 6, 7, 8)

INFO CAC(S) JS(6) NIDS(1) JS(2) SECDEF(1)

SECDEF(9) USDP(11) USDP:ISA(1) USDP:ESA(3)

USDP:OSAA(4) NMIC(1) OSI-IPU(1) DB-SC2(1) DB-3(2)

DB(1) VP FRO(1) DE-4(1) DB-2C(1) DB-2C2(1) DB-6(4)

DB-66(1) DB-6C(1) DIA(1) DB-SC2(1) DB-602(1)

OSCA WASHINGTON DC

ENR WASHINGTON DC

ESAF WASHINGTON DC

EPIC WASH DC

EMC WASHINGTON DC

EMC WASHINGTON DC

EMC WASHINGTON DC

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OCT 11 1987

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DATE

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() DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE

() DECLASSIFY IN PART

() DENY

() Non-responsive info.

FOR EO and PA exemptions (b)(7)(D)

TO authority to:

() CLASSIFY as

, OADR

() DOWNGRADE TO () S or () C, OADR